



AN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE OF THE
COLORADO RIVER WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

How Do You Use Water

In the course of your daily life, you use a lot of water. It is so inexpensive and readily available that you may not even pay attention to how often you use water or how much you consume. Here is a picture of your daily water use.

Americans, on average, use 70-120 gallons of water per person per day in their homes, an amount over twice that used by Europeans. This number does not include water that is used outside of the house, while at work, when going out to eat, or other external water uses.

Toilets are the number one consumer of water inside the home. Using a less-efficient 3.5 gallons per flush toilet on average roughly 5 times per day, the Americans flush away almost 19 gallons of water per person each day, or 26% of the water used inside the home.

Washing clothes is the second largest domestic use of water, coming in at just over 21% of in-home volume. Statistically, each American will use 15 gallons of water a day to wash their clothes, consuming just over 40 gallons of water per load of laundry.

Showers account for about 16% of indoor water use. Spending just over 8 minutes under a shower that pours out over 2 gallons a minute, we use an average of more than 17 gallons a day for bathing. Inefficient showerheads use two to three times the volume of water to accomplish the same task.

We run faucets for about 8 minutes per day, pouring out about 2 gallons per minute for almost 16% of daily water use.

The fifth largest use of water by each American is not really a use at all – it's the water we lose through leaks and drips. About one out of every seven gallons used in our homes disappears as waste in such innocent ways as dripping sinks, leaking pipes and toilet tanks that are constantly draining. A tiny leak the size of a pinhole will leak 120 gallons per day and drain away over 43,000 gallons of water a year, while costing each household over \$100 a year in lost water.

The remaining 5% of average indoor water use goes for washing dishes, baths and other miscellaneous uses.

Stepping outside the home, watering lawns and gardens more than doubles the amount of water used inside the home.

What's the cost of all that water? About \$0.30 per person per day. Were someone to use bottled water costing \$1 per litre to meet all of their indoor water needs, the cost would be around \$385 per person per day, or over \$140,000 a year.

Water Use Inside the Home

